CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): Exercise apparatus for ~~exercising lower limbs, in particular~~ for exercising lower limbs to perform a cyclic muscular exercise~~, or consisting of an alternating succession of concentric and eccentric steps, characterised in that it comprises~~ said exercise apparatus comprising a carrying structure ~~(12)~~, to which at least one seat for the user ~~(13)~~ and a support and guide member ~~(14)~~ ~~of~~ to which two footboards ~~(15), or support bases for feet,~~ are ~~constrained~~ attached, ~~as well as~~ and having an actuator ~~(16)~~ connected to said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~, wherein said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ is ~~constrained~~ attached to the carrying structure ~~(12)~~ by a ~~pin or~~ fulcrum ~~(17)~~ ~~and is~~ said support and guide member being adapted for ~~performing a hunting motion~~ rotation on a plane at least on one side relative to a longitudinal axis of the apparatus, said footboards ~~(15)~~ ~~describing~~ having a curvilinear trajectory around the fulcrum ~~(17)~~.

2. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said plane is horizontal.

3. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~ comprises at least one bar, which forms a lever arm, connected at a first opposed end[[s]] to the carrying structure ~~(12)~~ ~~in said~~ by fulcrum ~~(17)~~ ~~as well as~~ and at a second opposed end to said footboards ~~(15), respectively~~.

4. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said footboards ~~(15)~~ are turnably fixed to at least one support plate ~~(18)~~ by an articulated joint ~~(19)~~ which allows ~~their rotation around their~~ said footboards to rotate around an axis.

5. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said plate ~~(18)~~ is connected to the support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~ by a shaft ~~or connecting element~~ ~~(23)~~.

6. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said articulated joint ~~(19)~~ imposes ~~an adjustment and~~ a restriction to the rotation of the footboards (15).

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said support plate ~~(18)~~ is free to rotate around the axis of the shaft ~~(23)~~.

9. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said actuator ~~(16)~~ is connected in an articulated manner at opposed ends to said carrying structure ~~(12)~~ and to said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15), respectively~~.

10. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said actuator ~~(16)~~ is a pneumatic piston moving inside a cylinder.

11. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said actuator ~~(16)~~ is connected to the support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~ by a connecting element ~~(21)~~, the position of said element ~~(21)~~ being adjustable relative to the member ~~(14)~~.

12. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said actuator ~~(16)~~ exerts a variable and adjustable power.

13. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said actuator ~~(16)~~ has an adjustable stroke.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising adjustable locking means ~~(44)~~ for locking said support plate[[s]] ~~(18)~~ of the footboards during the exercise at a fixed angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the apparatus.

18. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said locking means comprises an additional bar ~~(44)~~ hinged to said carrying structure ~~(12)~~ and to said at least one support plate ~~(18)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~, said additional bar ~~(44)~~ being arranged parallel relative to said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ for keeping said at least one support plate ~~(18)~~ at a fixed angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the apparatus during the exercise.

19. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said additional bar ~~(44)~~ has an adjustable height.

20. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said footboards ~~(15)~~ are connected to one another by a bar ~~(43)~~.

21. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein each of said footboards ~~(15)~~ comprises a frame ~~(41)~~ connected by said articulated joint ~~(19)~~ to a top plate ~~(18)~~ and to a bottom plate ~~(18)~~ integral to one another, as well as a support surface ~~(42)~~ for the foot, hinged to said frame ~~(41)~~ according to a horizontal axis.

22. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it comprises a braking device ~~(45)~~ for restricting the relative rotation motion around said shaft ~~(23)~~ between said support and guide member ~~(14)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~ and said at least one support plate ~~(18)~~ of the footboards ~~(15)~~.

23. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 22, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said braking device ~~(45)~~ comprises a disc ~~(46)~~ adapted for being pressed

against said at least one plate ~~(18)~~ by an adjustable stem ~~(47)~~.

24. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises~~ comprising an electronic control system for said actuator ~~(16)~~.

25-26. (canceled)